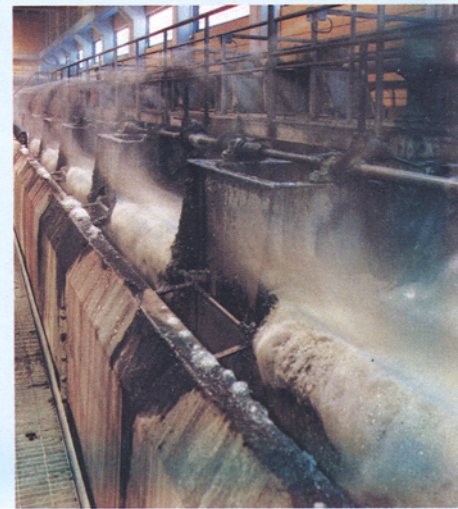
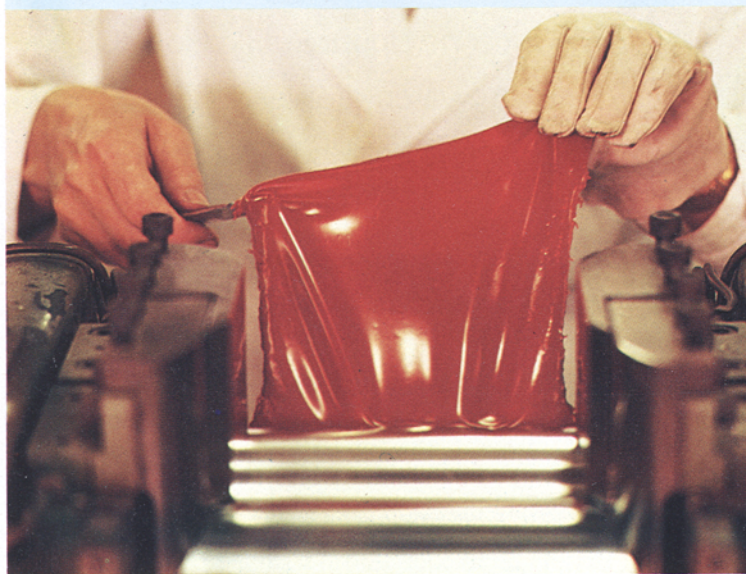
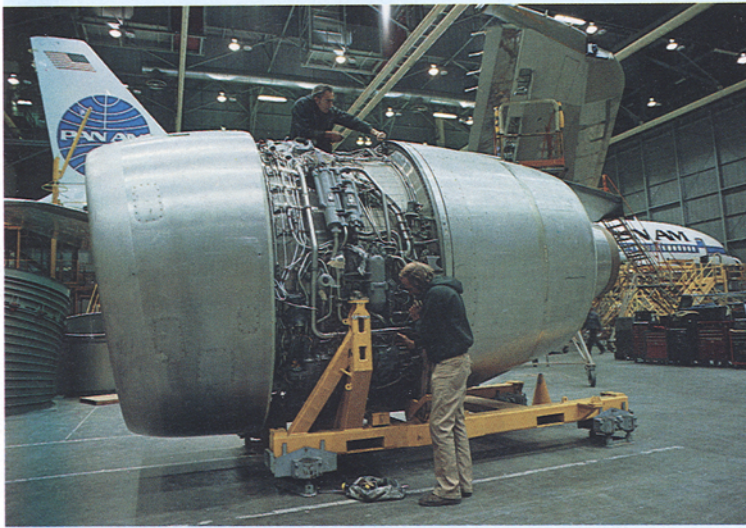


# Introduction



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Oleochemical specialists from more than 30 nations gathered during the week of Sept. 18-23, 1983, in Montreux, Switzerland, for the World Conference on Oleochemicals. The event was a milestone in that it was the first time such an international meeting had been held. Delegates from all parts of the globe attended, representing leading firms in production and use of oleochemicals, as well as academic and governmental research institutions whose work is important to the industry.

During the week, these international delegates heard presentations on the latest technological and economic information available about oleochemicals. Conference chairman William Link of Sherex and his European counterpart, Edward Munnig-Schmidt of Akzo Chemie, recruited an outstanding conference committee that developed the program and selected the speakers. Organizers and registrants alike expressed their appreciation to the speakers for excellent presentations.

In addition to the formal discussions, registrants participated in a series of memorable social events. Such informal gatherings provided the opportunity for conversations that led to an understanding of problems faced by others, providing new perspectives on how to solve such problems. Kurt Gehri of the Swiss Soap and Detergent Manufacturers' Association served as local chairman for the conference, coordinating local logistics and organizing the receptions, boat tour and dinner for conference registrants. AOCS staff served as the conference secretariat.



This proceedings volume of the *JAOCS* contains the plenary lectures presented at the conference and will be a valuable reference book or a textbook on state-of-the-art technology for the oleochemical industry, as well as containing informative reviews on oleochemicals economics and the research now underway around the world.

The American Oil Chemists' Society hopes the meeting has fostered an increased awareness of the total scope of the diverse oleochemical industry, with a promise of increased communication in the future that will benefit the industry and the world's consumers, whose lives, whether they are aware of it or not, are touched each day by some product from the oleochemical industry.

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Proceedings Editor

